The currently anticipated outlay during the 8th Plan is Rs. 12,938.78 crores and the resource gap after taking into account multinational/ bilateral external funding, external commercial borrowing and internal resources, is estimated to be Rs. 5,335.73 crores.

(c) Government has been providing Gross Budgetary Support to NTPC for implementation of the on-going projects. Besides, Government, has also been recovering the over dues of SEBs to NTPC from the central plan assistance, and providing to NTPC.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Grants for Power Supply to the Farmers in Gujarat

1539. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide grants for the supply of power to the farmers in Gujarat for operating their irrigation pumps ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have fixed any targets in this regard during the year 1993-94; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NA1DU): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Union Government to provide grants for supply of Power to the farmers in Gujarat for operating their irrigation pumpsels.

Committee on Incearsing Electricity Rates

1540. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to give suggestions on increasing the rates of electricity in various States and to allow private sector to participate in the functioning of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee and what are the suggestions made by the Committee ;

(c) whether Government propose to implement these suggestions in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NA1DU): (a) Planning Commission has notified NDC Committee on Power on 3-6-1993 to suggest measures to improve the health of State Electricity Boards inter alia by tariff changes. Private participation in generation & distribution is permitted at present and some SEBs are aking advantage of this.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :—

(i) to review the factors which have contributed to technical and managerial inefficiencies of the power utilities in the State leading to increased costs and inefficiencies in the supply of electricity to different categories of consumers and recommend measures to minimise the unit cost of electricity supply to consumers ;

(ii) to review the electricity tariff structure in the States and recommend a set of national norms for implementation to make the state power utilities economically viable and enable them to generate adequate internal resources for financing their future capital expansion programmes for meeting the increasing demand for electricity in different parts of the country;

(iii) to review the institutional and financial structure of the State power utilities and recommend necessary changes including, inter-alia, the need to delink distribution from generation and the need to involve the consumers in the

management of electricity distribution through rural cooperatives etc., in order to ensure that the State power utilities function on commercial lines with adequate customer orientation ; and

(iv) to suggest measures necessary for suitably orienting the State power utilities towards, promoting investments from the private sector within the frame-work of the recently announced changes in the economic and industrial policy for covering the anticipated gap in the availability of financial resources for power development in the coming years.

(c) While the Committee has yet to submit its report, it is for the State Govts. to implement its recommendations.

(d) The Committee is likely to submit its report by the end of December, 1993.

World Bank Guarantee for Foreign Commercial Loans to NTPC

1541. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank will stand guarantee for foreign commercial loans to be raked by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the extent of financing that will be available;

(c) whether it is a fact that the World Bank help would enable the NTPC to raise funds at substantially better terms; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) A World Bank mission had preliminary discussions with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Government of India in August 1993r regarding the possibility of mobilising, external commercial borrowing for NTPCs -investment programme under the Expanded Co-financing Operations with World Bank guarantee.

(c) and (d) During discussions, the World Bank had indicated that Expanded Co-financing Operations are designed to attract new sources of finance, reduce costs and extend maturities by moderating risks to the lenders etc.

Amounts paid to Nespapers on Advertisements

1542. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount paid to the newspapers for advertisements by his Ministry during the year 1992 93; and

(b) what are the details of the amounts paid to the Newspapers, language-wise, on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The advertisements released by the Ministry of Power are centralised through Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP), which is under the Ministry of Informaton & Broadcasting.

विद्युत उत्पादन पारेषण और वितरण के सम्बध में विश्व बैंक से प्राप्त सुझाव

1543. **श्री अजीत जोगी**: क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विद्युत उत्पादन और वितरण के विकेन्द्रीकरण और इसके पारेषण के केन्द्रीकरण के लिए विश्व बैंक से कोई सुझाव प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगय्या नायडू): (क) और (ख) भारत के विद्युत क्षेत्र की वित्तीय स्थिति सुधारने हेतु विश्व बैंक द्वारा कुछ उपाय सुझाए गए हैं, इनमें राज्य